



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301

3 April 1981
MSK-1005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Seoul Bureau--March 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. Coverage of Beijing City Service was dropped during the month due to consistently unmonitorable reception, leaving the Bureau with coverage of eight PRC provincial stations. While no other stations are heard with superior reception to that at either Okinawa [redacted] several of them are fully monitorable and the Bureau has excess Mandarin capability available for any future shifts of PRC provincial coverage. STAT
2. Okinawa Bureau Cruising Monitor [redacted] arrived on 30 March for a two-week survey of Seoul Bureau's full reception potential. The survey should provide a complete picture of the Bureau's capability to monitor PRC provincial stations and Soviet Far East radios, as well as other stations in the area. STAT

B. Technical

1. Following discussions initiated by Okinawa Chief Engineer [redacted] last December, a letter was sent by the Bureau to the local Army 1st Signal Brigade formally requesting the upgrading of the remote system microwave links between Yongsan and the Embassy. In talks during the month, Brigade offices had indicated that the upgrading could be accomplished using equipment taken from a recently deactivated system using local labor, thus bypassing the bureaucratic red tape that would have been involved in seeking outside funds and equipment. The upgrading project carries a requested completion date of 1 June 1981. STAT

2. Talks were also held with a representative of USCEEIA from Fort Huachuca, Arizona who was in Korea temporarily to initiate the installation of the military's new "Fast-back" microwave communications system between Pyongtaek and Yongsan. Seoul Bureau will be incorporated in this system, which will replace the antiquated equipment now in use and overcome the limitations of the present system. Inauguration of the system is slated for November of this year.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. After discussions held by the FBIS Admin Staff with the State Department, the Embassy was instructed by the Department to review all of the Bureau's positions with a view to revising the grades currently assigned. The Bureau is presently completing the drafting of position descriptions for all positions for submission to State, through the Embassy, and review back in Washington. The results of the review of the Bureau's position descriptions are expected to be used in State's fall survey of London Bureau positions.
2. The necessary clearances were received on Korean monitor candidate [] who is scheduled to EOD on 13 April. STAT
3. By a fortunate quirk of fate, the Bureau received a Telex message from an employee of Korean International Telecommunications who was seeking a job. He typed 64 words a minute on our Telex machine in a typing test, almost three times the speed of any other applicant for our vacant teletypist position. Processing of his application for employment has been started by the Embassy.
4. Bureau Associate Editor [] returned to duty on 2 March from maternity leave, during which her second child--and first daughter--was born. STAT

III. VISITS

1. State North Korea desk officer Doug Rasmussen, on 4 March for a briefing on Bureau operations, together with Political Section officer Bill Eaton.

2. [] NFAC Korean analyst, on 24 March for STAT
a briefing on Bureau operations and discussion of requirements.
3. [] CRS Korean analyst, on 31 March for a briefing STAT
Bureau operations and discussion of requirements.



STAT

Chief, Seoul Bureau, FBIS

Attachments:

Production Reports
Engineering Report

cc: Chief, []
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

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